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## <u>REMARKS</u>

In view of the amendments set forth above, the Applicant respectfully requests allowance of the pending claims. If the Examiner believes that a telephonic interview will help speed this application toward issuance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: April 30, 2003

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## VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

Please cancel claim 11 without prejudice.

Please amend claims 1, 2, 7, 13, and 22 as follows:

- 1. (Twice Amended) A bearing assembly, comprising:
- a bearing insert;
- a bearing housing adapted to house the bearing insert;
- a cover removably securable to the bearing housing; and
- a rotatable flinger secured to the cover, the rotatable flinger havingcomprising:
- a first opening therethrough, the first opening being adapted to receive a the rotatable shaft and to enable the rotatable flinger to form a compression seal against the rotatable shaft; and
- an outer flange disposed external to the cover to fling material that comes into contact with the outer flange away from the bearing assembly.
- 2. (Amended) The bearing assembly as recited in claim 1, wherein the rotatable flinger has an inner flange and an outer flange, the inner and outer flanges having a greater diameter than a second opening through the cover, the inner and outer flanges cooperating with a portion of the cover surrounding the second opening to secure the rotatable flinger to the cover.
- 7. (Amended) The bearing assembly as recited in claim 16, wherein the bearing insert comprises a plurality of roller bearings.
- 13. (Amended) A sealing assembly for forming a seal between a bearing assembly and a rotatable shaft, comprising:
  - a cover removably securable to a bearing housing; and

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a rotatable member securable to the cover and adapted to receive the rotatable shaft therethrough, the rotatable member being configured to form a seal against the rotatable shaft and to rotate therewith to fling liquids or solids that come into contact with the rotatable member away from the <u>cover bearing assembly</u>.

22. (Amended) A method of assembling a bearing assembly for supporting a rotatable shaft, comprising the acts of:

engaging a rotatable shaft with a flinger operable to rotate with the rotatable shaft and form a compression seal therewith;

positioning the rotatable shaft through a portion of a bearing insert;

rotatably securing the flinger to a removable cover by disposing the cover between

an inner flanged portion of the flinger and an outer flanged portion of the flinger; and

securing the cover to a bearing housing.